

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10804 281454Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O R 281350Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7514

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10804

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT LE EG SY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED APPROACH TO SADAT ON LEBANON

REF: A. BEIRUT 13090 (NOTAL); B. BEIRUT 13285

1. OUR PREOCCUPATION WITH LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS FOR SADAT'S VISIT TO US PLUS OUR AWARENESS OF MUTUAL HIGH-LEVEL CONCERN OVER LEBANESE SITUATION AS WELL AS PROSPECT LEBANON WOULD BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON ACCOUNTS FOR ABSENCE OF EMBASSY COMMENT ON PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTEL A.

2. IN VIEW OF REITERATION OF PROPOSAL ON BASIS OF KHALAF RECOMMENDATION IN REFTEL B, WE WISH TO NOTE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT APPROACHING SADAT WITH SPECIFIC COUNSEL AS TO THRUST OF HIS EFFORTS TO CALM LEBANESE SITUATION. WITHOUT ANY DOUBT SADAT CLEARLY RECOGNIZES GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR LEBANON, SYRIA AND MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS INHERENT IN LEBANESE STRIFE. FURTHERMORE, WE BELIEVE IT IS NOT RPT NOT HIS INTENTION TO SCORE CHEAP POLITICAL POINTS AGAINST ASAD BY LOOSELY WORDED STATEMENTS ABOUT INTERVENTION. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF USG TO RECOMMEND SADAT PRAISE ASAD AT A TIME WHEN SYRIA HAS VIOLENTLY ATTACKED EGYPT'S POLICIES AND SADAT'S LEADERSHIP.

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3. MOREOVER, GOE IS NOT CONVINCED OF BENEVOLENT SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANESE CRISIS. FAHMY, ASHRAF MARWAN AND OTHERS HAVE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN THAT SYRIA IS NOT RPT NOT PLAYING AS CONCILIATORY ROLE AS IT COULD. REMARKS BY LEANESE CHIEF OF STAFF ON ARMS AND AMMUNITION NOW CROSSING SYRIAN BORDER (RECENTLY REPORTED BY EMBASSY BEIRUT) WOULD PROBABLY COME AS NO SURPRISE TO GOE. MAESTRONE

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